

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, UK

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - MICROWAVE LANDING SYSTEM (MLS)

REF: LONDON 1419

BRUSSELS FOR FAA

1. REGARDING PLESSEY'S CRITICISMS OF US DECISION ON MLS,
DEPT UNDERSTANDS PROCESS WOULD NOT HAVE RESULTED IN CHOICE
OF DOPPLER-SCAN MLS EVEN IF FAA VOTES WERE ABSTRACTED.

2. THE PROCEDURES FAA USED WERE CAREFULLY DESIGNED TO PRO-
VIDE MAXIMUM AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY. TWO CONSORTIA DEVELOPED
EACH TYPE OF SYSTEM, I.E., DOPPLER-SCAN AND SCANNING-
BEAM. DURING EVALUATION, EACH CONSORTIUM WAS ALLOWED TO
IMPROVE ITS DESIGN. THE FAA'S CENTRAL ASSESSMENT GROUP

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(CAG) FOUND BOTH TYPES FULLY ACCEPTABLE. CHOICE WAS

EXTREMELY DIFFICULT BECAUSE OF FEEDBACK AND ADJUSTMENT
PROCESS WHICH WAS ALLOWED, AND BECAUSE OF LACK OF ANY CLEAR
SUPERIORITY OF ONE TYPE OVER THE OTHER.

3. AFTER CAG SELECTION OF BOTH TYPES, A SEVENTEEN MEMBER
STEERING COMMITTEE OF CAG VOTED 21 DECEMBER TO RECOMMEND
SELECTION OF SCANNING-BEAM SYSTEM AS U.S. ENTRY FOR
ICAO COMPETITION. VOTING WAS AS FOLLOWS:

FOR DOPPLER-SCAN:
FAA - 1 VOTE
USAF - 2 VOTES
U.S. NAVY - 1 VOTE
U.S. ARMY - 1 VOTE
UK - 1 VOTE
TOTAL SIX VOTES

FOR SCANNING BEAM:
FAA - 4 VOTES
DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION - 1 VOTE
NASA - 1 VOTE
U.S. ARMY - 1 VOTE
FRANCE - 1 VOTE
AUSTRALIA - 1 VOTE
TOTAL - NINE VOTES

ABSTAINING WITH INTENTION TO SUPPORT MAJORITY:

FAA - 1 VOTE
U.S. NAVY - 1 VOTE
TOTAL - TWO VOTES

THUS EFFECTIVE VOTE WAS 11-6 IN FAVOR OF SCANNING-BEAM.

4. STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION IS NOW UNDER
REVIEW BY MLS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF TOP
MANAGEMENT REPS FROM FAA, DOT, DOD AND NASA. EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE REQUESTED AND RECEIVED BRIEFINGS FROM DOPPLER
PROPONENTS, TWO U.S. FIRMS AND UK CAA. PLESSEY REP
WAS PRESENT. COMMITTEE DETERMINATION MUST BE CONCURRED
IN BY RESPECTIVE AGENCY HEADS. THIS WILL CONSTITUTE
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OFFICIAL USG CHOICE.

5. RESPONSE SHOULD BE THAT NO USG DECISION HAS BEEN
MADE. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IS PRESENTLY CONSIDERING
CHOICE. FYI: DECISION POSSIBLE MOMENTARILY. WHILE
WE REGRET PLESSEY REACTION TO RECOMMENDATION, WE
BELIEVE THE CLOSENESS AND INTENSITY OF THE COMPETITION
PROBABLY MADE IT UNAVOIDABLE. KISSINGER

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